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Phosphinic Acid Analogs of Glutamate

5 This application is a 371 of PCT/CH03/00750 filed on 11/14/2003.

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This invention is concerned with compounds useful for the prevention or suppression of human malodour, in particular human axillary malodour.

It is known that fresh sweat is odourless and that odour is only formed upon contact of sweat with skin bacteria (for example bacteria of the genera of *Staphylococcus* and *Corynebacteria*) and it is believed that odourless molecules present in sweat are degraded by bacteria colonising the axilla. It is generally accepted (Labows *et. al.*, Cosmet. Sci Technol. Ser. (1999), 20:59-82) that highly unpleasant malodour is released from fresh sweat mainly by the *Corynebacteria* genus of bacteria. The principal constituents thought 10 to be responsible for malodour include volatile steroids, volatile sulphur compounds and 15 short-chain, branched fatty acids.

It has been suggested to treat malodour by eradicating the bacteria responsible for causing the odour. Indeed, commercially available cosmetic deodorants often contain antibacterial 20 compounds that generally inhibit the growth of skin microflora. Antibacterial compounds currently used in deodorant products include, for example Triclosan (2,4,4'-trichloro-2'hydroxy-diphenyl-ether). However, a draw-back to the use of antibacterials is the potential for disturbing the equilibrium of the skin's natural microflora.

25 Fatty acids, in particular short chain, branched fatty acids are known to play a role in axillary malodour, and are particularly foul smelling components of stale sweat. In co-pending application PCT/CH02/00262 the applicant has disclosed an enzyme that mediates in a process of transforming odourless compounds found in sweat into these malodorous fatty acids. In this co-pending application there is also disclosed a broad class of 30 compounds having activity as inhibitors of the enzyme.